

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by German Patent No. 197 24 572 to Wegge, *et al.* ("Wegge"), and claims 11-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,234,041 B1 to Larabet, *et al.* ("Larabet"). In addition, claims 1 is objected to due to informalities. Withdrawn claims 13-14 are noted above in their previously amended form, as permitted by the recent amendments to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

The Applicants have amended claim 1 to substantially clarify the directional references employed therein, without intent to narrow or otherwise alter the scope of the claimed subject matter, by reciting all directional references with respect to the longitudinal, vertical and transverse directions of *the vehicle*. Corresponding amendments to the dependent claims have also been made.

Additional amendments have been made to resolve the informalities noted in the pending Office Action (reciting "outside handle pull"; replacing "the outside" with "outward from the door"), and to clarify that the outside handle pull is disposed in a horizontal plane (*i.e.*, "a plane perpendicular to said vertical axis" of the vehicle) when in the handle pull is not being actuated (*i.e.*, when in a rest position).

Finally, claims 4-7, 10-12 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. Cancellation of claims 11-12 renders moot the pending § 102(e) rejection of these claims as anticipated by Larabet.

1. The Claims Are Patentable Over Wegge Under § 102(b).

The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-10 and 15 § 102(b) as anticipated by Wegge on the grounds that this reference does not disclose all the features of amended claim 1 and its dependent claims.

The present invention teaches a door handle arrangement wherein, *inter alia*, the handle pull is “*pivotally mounted about a swiveling axis at a forward or rear end of the handle pull,*” and “*the swiveling axis is tilted in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis and away from the vertical axis*” such that the handle pull “*pivots upward and outward when the door lock is opened.*”

Wegge, in contrast, discloses a handle which pivots about two pins 8, 8' that define a swiveling axis in a direction substantially *aligned with the longitudinal axis*. Wegge Fig. 1. Wegge thus does not teach or suggest claim 1's swiveling axis *transverse to the longitudinal axis*.

Because Wegge does not anticipate amended claim 1 or its dependent claims under § 102(b), the Applicants respectfully request the pending §102(b) rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicants believe currently pending claims 1-3 and 8-9 are in allowable form. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance for these claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #225/51484US).

Respectfully submitted,

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